

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A method for operating a disk drive, comprising the steps of:
  2. detecting insertion of a disk within the disk drive;
  3. reading contents of the disk; and
  4. storing a copy of the disk contents in a designated location within memory as a
  5. back-up version.
  
1. 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing a new version of data in the designated location when a user stores a new version of data on the disk.
  
1. 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of automatically ejecting the disk during a shut down procedure of the computing device.
  
1. 4. A computing device, comprising:
  2. a processing device;
  3. a disk drive; and
  4. memory including a disk back-up controller that is configured to store a copy of contents of a disk inserted into the disk drive in a designated location within
  5. memory.

1           5. The computing device of claim 4, wherein the disk back-up controller  
2 is further configured to store a new version of data in the designated location when a  
3 user stores a new version of data on the disk.

1           6. The computing device of claim 4, further comprising an ejection  
2 mechanism that is adapted to automatically eject the disk during a shut down  
3 procedure of the computing device.

1           7. The computing device of claim 4, wherein the disk drive comprises a  
2 floppy disk drive.

1           8. The computing device of claim 4, wherein the computing device is one  
2 of a personal computer, a Macintosh computer, and a notebook computer.

1           9. A method for operating a disk drive, comprising the steps of:  
2           detecting a shut down procedure of the computing device; and  
3           transmitting an ejection command to the disk drive to cause an ejection  
4 mechanism of the disk drive to actuate to eject a floppy disk inserted within the disk  
5 drive.

1           10. The method of claim 9, detecting insertion of a disk within the disk  
2 drive and storing a copy of the disk contents in a designated location within memory  
3 as a back-up version.

1        11.    The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of storing a new  
2    version of data in the designated location when a user stores a new version of data on  
3    the disk.

1        12.    A computing device, comprising:  
2            a processing device;  
3            a disk drive, the disk drive including an ejection mechanism is configured to  
4    actuate to automatically eject a disk contained within the disk drive during shut down  
5    procedures of the computing device.

1        13.    The computing device of claim 12, further comprising memory  
2    including a disk ejection controller configured to transmit an ejection command to the  
3    disk drive when a shut down procedure is detected.

1        14.    The computing device of claim 12, further comprising memory  
2    including a disk back-up controller configured to store a copy of disk contents in a  
3    designated location within memory as a back-up version when a disk is inserted into  
4    the disk drive.

1        15.    The computing device of claim 14, wherein the disk back-up controller  
2    is further configured to store a new version of data in the designated location when a  
3    user stores a new version of data on the disk.

1        16.    The computing device of claim 12, wherein the disk drive comprises a  
2    floppy disk drive.

1        17.    The computing device of claim 12, wherein the computing device is  
2    one of a personal computer, a Macintosh computer, and a notebook computer.

1        18.    A disk drive for use in a computing device, the disk drive comprising:  
2        an ejection mechanism configured to automatically eject a disk contained  
3    within the disk drive during shut down procedures of the computing device.

1        19.    The disk drive of claim 18, wherein the ejection mechanism comprises  
2        electromechanical components that actuate upon application of an appropriate  
3    actuation voltage.

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